



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**AUGUST 2, 2004**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **HOLLISTER FELON SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Hollister, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for illegally possessing a firearm.

**Joshua Hartness**, 29, of Hollister, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., this morning to four years and nine months in federal prison without parole.

On April 9, 2004, **Hartness** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Hartness** admitted that he was in possession of a Charter Arms .38-caliber revolver on Feb. 2, 2002, in Taney County, Mo. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Hartness** has two 2000 criminal felony convictions for possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute and possession of a controlled substance.

**Hartness** was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Jan. 22, 2004, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard Monroe. The case was investigated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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